

(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 933 662 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
04.08.1999 Bulletin 1999/31(51) Int. Cl.⁶: G02F 1/01

(21) Application number: 98310765.7

(22) Date of filing: 29.12.1998

(84) Designated Contracting States:
 AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
 MC NL PT SE
 Designated Extension States:
 AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: 31.12.1997 KR 9782102

(71) Applicant:
 SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.
 Suwon-City, Kyungki-do (KR)

(72) Inventor: Park, Moo-youn
 Kwangmyung-city, Kyungki-do (KR)

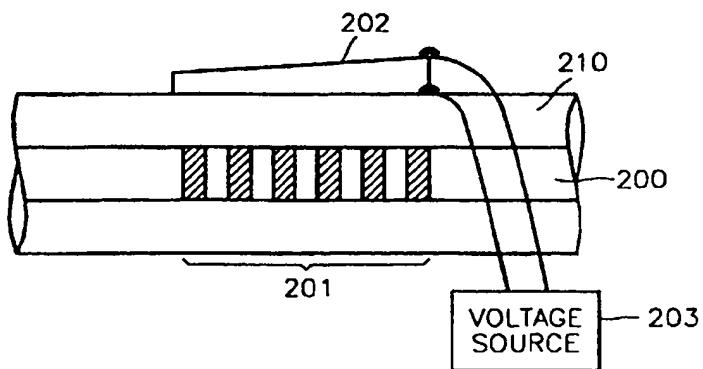
(74) Representative:
 Powell, Timothy John
 Eric Potter Clarkson,
 Park View House,
 58 The Ropewalk
 Nottingham NG1 5DD (GB)

(54) Tunable chirped fiber grating device and method

(57) A tunable chirped grating device an optical fiber having the same spacings between index perturbations, a piezoelectric element bonded to the optical fiber, for changing the perturbation spacings according to an applied voltage, and a voltage source for applying the voltage to the piezoelectric element. Since a predetermined piezoelectric element is bonded to an optical fiber provided with a grating having regular spacings

and the perturbation spacings can be differently deformed by applying different electric field to respective perturbation positions by the piezoelectric element, and the chirping rates of the reflected wavelengths waves can be adjusted, a chirped grating device whose manufacturing procedure is simple and which has flexibility can be provided.

FIG. 2



EP 0 933 662 A1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a tunable chirped fiber grating device in which the spacings of perturbations in the index of refraction vary with a strain which is produced by applying a voltage across a predetermined piezoelectric element and a method for forming a chirped fiber grating.

[0002] A chirped grating is designed to have different perturbation spacings or different effective refractive indices depending on positions of the perturbations, and is characterized in that the wavelength of reflected light differs depending on the positions of the perturbations. FIGS. 1A and 1B show side views illustrating an optical fiber in which a chirped grating is formed. Here, a core is represented by reference numeral 100 or 120, a cladding by 110 or 130, and a grating by 101 or 102. The chirped grating 101 in the core 100 according to FIG. 1A has a structure in which the spacings of successive perturbations are different from each other, while the effective refractive indices of the perturbations are the same, and a chirped grating 102 in the core 120 according to FIG. 1B has a structure in which the spacings of successive perturbations are the same, while the effective refractive indices of the perturbations are different from each other.

[0003] However, such chirped gratings are doomed to experience more complicated procedures than those having equal perturbation spacings, and since the chirping rates of the reflected wavelengths according to the positions of the perturbations are fixed to values in fabrication conditions and therefore the gratings can be used for a specific wavelength band, and the gratings cannot be applied flexibly.

[0004] According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a tunable chirped grating device characterized in that the tunable chirped grating device includes an optical fiber having the same spacings between index perturbations, a piezoelectric element bonded to the optical fiber, for changing the perturbation spacings according to an applied voltage, and a voltage source for applying the voltage to the piezoelectric element.

[0005] It is thus an advantage of the present invention to provide a tunable chirped grating device whose perturbation spacings differ from each other by attaching an element whose length can vary with an applied voltage to an optical fiber including a grating in which spacings between perturbations are regular and controlling the applied voltage, and a method for forming a chirped fiber grating.

[0006] According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided a method for forming a chirped fiber grating characterized in that the method includes the steps of (a) forming a grating having regularly spaced perturbations in the optical fiber, and (b) causing the perturbation spacings of the optical fiber grating to differ from each other by applying different tensions to the

optical fiber grating according to the positions of the perturbations.

[0007] There now follows a description of preferred embodiments of the invention, by way of non-limiting example, with reference to the attached drawings in which:

FIGS. 1A and 1B are side views illustrating a prior art optical chirped grating; and

FIG. 2 is a side view illustrating the structure of a tunable chirped grating device according to the present invention.

[0008] FIG. 2 shows a side view illustrating the structure of a tunable chirped grating device according to the present invention. The tunable chirped grating device shown in FIG. 2 includes an optical fiber in which a grating 201 having perturbations which have the same refractive index perturbations and regularly spaced therebetween in a core 200 formed inside a cladding 210, a piezoelectric element 202 attached to the optical fiber, and a voltage source 203 for supplying a voltage to the piezoelectric element 202.

[0009] A method for forming a chirped grating using the above described structure is as follows. That is, the grating 201 having regularly spaced perturbations is formed in the optical fiber core 200, and the spacings of perturbations are caused to differ from each other by applying different tensions to the optical fiber grating 201 according to the positions of the perturbations. The tensions are created by the piezoelectric element 202 and the voltage source 203.

[0010] The grating 201 satisfies the following Bragg condition in the optical fiber core 200.

$$\lambda_i = 2 \cdot n_{\text{eff}} \cdot d_i$$

where λ_i is the wavelength of an incident wave, n_{eff} is the effective index of refraction, and d_i is the spacing between perturbations.

[0011] The material of the piezoelectric element 202 attached on the outside of the grating 201 is a material which can be deformed according to the voltage applied by the voltage source 203, and $Pb(Zr_xTi_{1-x})O_3$, $0.4 \leq x \leq 0.6$ (PZT or Lead Zirconate Titanate) is preferably appropriate for the material. Epoxy may be used as the adhesive. The piezoelectric element 202 made of a material such as PZT deforms in a direction perpendicular to the applied electrical field. The shape of the piezoelectric element 202 is preferably wedge-shaped in order for deformations at each position to occur with different degrees from each other according to the applied voltage. That is, though the applied voltage is constant, as a portion of the piezoelectric element 202 is thicker, the electrical field becomes relatively weaker than a thinner portion. As a result, the thinner portion deforms to a smaller extent than the thicker portion.

[0012] The perturbation spacings of the grating 201

bonded to the piezoelectric element 202 having the above-described characteristics vary with the deformation of the piezoelectric element 202. Consequently, a chirped grating device having different spacings between perturbations can be formed. Further, when the voltage applied by the voltage source 203 is adjusted, the chirping rates of the reflected wavelengths can be adjusted.

[0013] According to the present invention, since a predetermined piezoelectric element is bonded to an optical fiber provided with a grating having regular perturbation spacings and the perturbation spacings can be differently deformed by applying different electrical fields to respective perturbation positions by the piezoelectric element, and the chirping rates of the reflected wavelengths can be adjusted, a chirped grating device whose manufacturing procedure is simple and which has flexibility can be provided.

Claims

20

1. A tunable chirped grating device,
characterized in that the tunable chirped grating device comprises:
an optical fiber having the same spacings
between index perturbations;
a piezoelectric element bonded to the optical fiber, for changing the perturbation spacings
according to an applied voltage; and
a voltage source for applying the voltage to the piezoelectric element.
2. The tunable chirped grating device as claimed in
claim 1, wherein the material of the piezoelectric
element is $Pb(Zr_xTi_{1-x})O_3$.
3. The tunable chirped grating device as claimed in
claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the shape of the piezoelectric
element is wedge-shaped so that deformations
at each position may occur with different
degrees according to the applied voltage.
4. A method for forming a chirped grating,
characterized in that the method includes
the steps of:
(a) forming a grating having regularly spaced
perturbations in the optical fiber; and
(b) causing the perturbation spacings of the
optical fiber grating to differ from each other by
applying different tensions to the optical fiber
grating according to the positions of the perturba-tions.
5. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the
method for applying the tensions comprising the
steps of:

bonding a wedge-shaped piezoelectric element to the optical fiber grating; and
causing the optical fiber grating to be differently deformed according to the positions of the perturbations as the piezoelectric element are deformed with relatively different degrees according to the positions thereof upon applying a voltage to the piezoelectric element.

FIG. 1A (PRIOR ART)

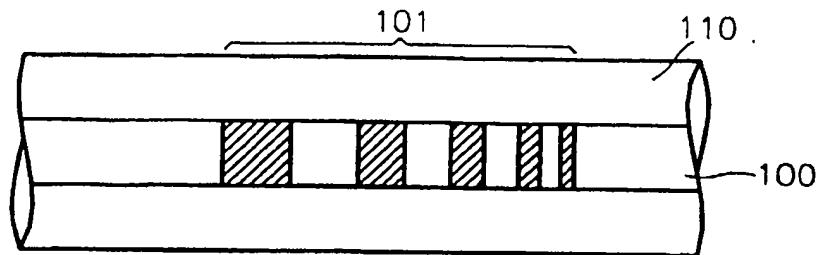


FIG. 1B (PRIOR ART)

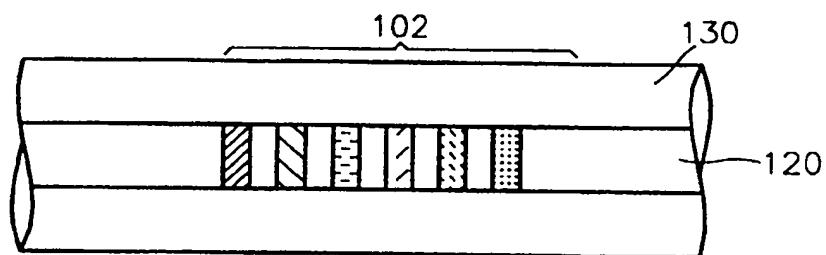
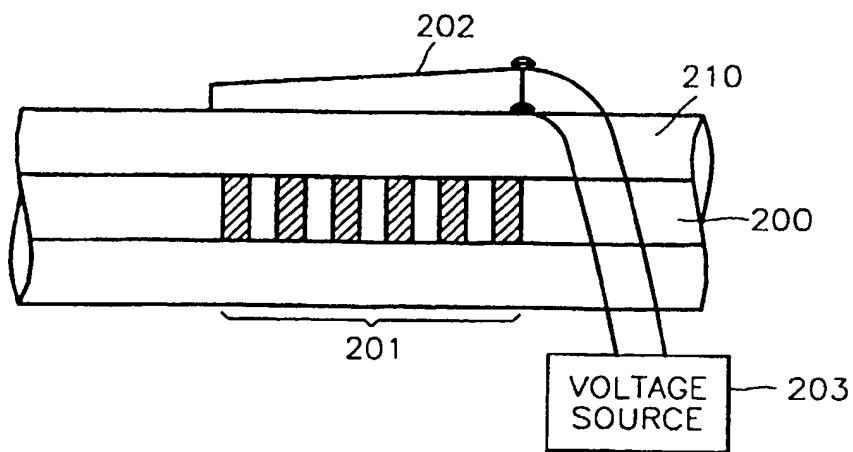


FIG. 2





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 31 0765

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US 5 694 501 A (ALAVIE TINO A ET AL) 2 December 1997 * abstract; figures 5A,5B * * column 3, line 27 - column 5, line 3 * ---	1,2,4	G02F1/01
X	OHN M M ET AL: "Dispersion variable fibre Bragg grating using a piezoelectric stack" ELECTRONICS LETTERS, 10 OCT. 1996, IEE, UK, vol. 32, no. 21, pages 2000-2001, XP000683539 ISSN 0013-5194 * the whole document *	1,2,4	
A	CRUZ J L ET AL: "Fibre Bragg gratings tuned and chirped using magnetic fields" ELECTRONICS LETTERS, 30 JAN. 1997, IEE, UK, vol. 33, no. 3, pages 235-236, XP000725938 ISSN 0013-5194 * the whole document *	1,4	
P,X	PACHECO M ET AL: "Chirping optical fibre Bragg gratings using tapered-thickness piezoelectric ceramic" ELECTRONICS LETTERS, 26 NOV. 1998, IEE, UK, vol. 34, no. 24, pages 2348-2350, XP002099851 ISSN 0013-5194 * the whole document *	1-5	G02F TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE	Date of completion of the search 16 April 1999	Examiner Iasevoli, R	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theory or principle underlying the invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> earlier patent document, not published on, or after the filing date <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> document cited in the application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> document cited for other reasons <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
EPO FORM 1500.01 (82-0401) X particularly relevant if taken alone Y particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A technological background O non written disclosure P intermediate document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 98 31 0765

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

16-04-1999

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5694501 A	02-12-1997	CA 2134958 A	03-05-1996

For more details about this annex see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82